

# Risk Adjustment Coding Academy- Coding Focus

## Get Control of Coding for Diabetes Uncontrolled



According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, diabetes is the seventh leading cause of death in the United States. Diabetes Mellitus (DM) is a disease that leads to above normal blood sugar (glucose) levels.<sup>1</sup>

### Monitoring DM

To minimize the chance of developing serious diabetic complications, a person with diabetes should try to keep their blood glucose level close to that of a person without diabetes. The normal target range is around 70-130. Blood glucose levels can be monitored using a blood glucose meter. High blood glucose (hyperglycemia) indicates low insulin in the body.<sup>2</sup>

Another test for blood glucose is the A1C, also called hemoglobin (Hb) A1C test. This blood test reflects the average level of glucose in blood during the past 2 to 3 months. The A1C target for most people with diabetes is below 7%. If at 8% or above, there may be a need for modification to the current care plan for diabetes.

### ICD-9: Uncontrolled DM

In ICD-9-CM, diabetes documented as uncontrolled impacted the fifth digit code assignment<sup>3</sup>:

- 0- type II or unspecified type, not stated as uncontrolled
- 1- type I, not stated as uncontrolled
- 2- type II or unspecified type, uncontrolled
- 3- type I, uncontrolled

According to AHA Coding Clinic, “Uncontrolled diabetes is a nonspecific term indicating that the patient's blood sugar level is not kept within acceptable levels by his or her current treatment regimen. There can be a variety of reasons for this including noncompliance, insulin resistance, dietary indiscretion, and intercurrent illness. Fifth-digits indicating uncontrolled diabetes should not be assigned based on blood glucose levels; these codes should only be used when the physician diagnoses uncontrolled diabetes.”<sup>4</sup>

### ICD-10: DM with Hyperglycemia

In ICD-10-CM, diabetes is no longer classified as controlled or uncontrolled. Instead, the following terms are classified as *diabetes (by type) with hyperglycemia* in the ICD-10 alphabetic index<sup>5</sup>:

- out of control
- poorly controlled
- inadequately controlled

According to AHA Coding Clinic, “Any combination of the diabetes codes can be assigned together, unless one diabetic condition is inherent in another.”<sup>6</sup> For example, diabetic retinopathy documented as poorly

controlled would be reported with two ICD-10 codes: E11.319 (HCC 18), Type 2 DM with unspecified diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, and E11.65 (HCC 18), Type 2 DM with hyperglycemia.

### ICD-10 Mapping

The table below provides a crosswalk for ICD-9 to ICD-10, including the CMS-HCC (Model Version 22) code, for the diagnosis of DM type II documented as out of control.

#### ICD-10 Mapping

<u>ICD-9</u>	<u>ICD-10</u>
<b>250.02 (HCC 19)</b> DM , type II, without mention of complication, uncontrolled	<b>E11.65 (HCC 18)</b> Type II DM with hyperglycemia

1 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website, Diabetes (accessed December 2015): <http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/basics/diabetes.html>

2 National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases website, Monitor Your Diabetes (accessed December 2015): <http://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/health-topics/Diabetes/your-guide-diabetes/Pages/monitor.aspx>

3 2012 Professional: International Classification of Diseases, 9th revision, Clinical Modification. Eden Prairie, MN: OptumInsight.

4 AHA Coding Clinic, 2008, Issue 2, “Poorly Controlled Diabetes”

5 Anita Schmidt, K.K., & P.W. (2016). ICD-10-CM Expert for Physicians. Optum360

6 AHA Coding Clinic, 2013, Issue 3, “Diabetes with Hyperglycemia